



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 10/675,611 | 09/29/2003 | William J. Boyle | ACS 63641 (3386X) | 6361 |
| 24201 | 7590 | 07/18/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| FULWIDER PATTON 6060 CENTER DRIVE 10TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90045 | | | PRONE, CHRISTOPHER D | |
| | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | | 3738 | |

DATE MAILED: 07/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/675,611 | BOYLE ET AL. |
| | Examiner Christopher D. Prone | Art Unit 3738 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 May 2006.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 5,6 and 11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4,7-10 and 12-20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 8-10 and 12-14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by (USPN 6,228,062) Howell et al.

Howell discloses the same invention as claimed being a torque device comprising a guidewire (24), a split seam sheath (36), handle (32) with a lumen (60) extending there through, a side-port (46) to remove the sheath from the guidewire, an extension arm (10) having an a tubular extension (shown near the reference character 58 in figure 5) and an opening for receiving both the guidewire and sheath.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 7, and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over (FPD FR 2580504) Pieronne in view of (USPN 6,228,062) Howell et al.

Pieronne discloses the invention substantially as claimed being an embolic filtering system comprising an expandable filter frame (1), a filter element (11), and a split seam sheath (16). However, Pieronne does not disclose all the structural elements of the torque device.

Howell teaches the use of a locking torque device comprising a guidewire (24), a split seam sheath (36), handle (32) with a lumen (60) extending there through, a funnel shaped side-port (46 shown in figure 5) to remove the sheath from the guidewire, a locking mechanism (comprising elements 50 and 52), an extension arm (10) having an a tubular extension (shown near the reference character 58 in figure 5) and an opening for receiving both the guidewire and sheath, and a member (34) for preventing kinking of the guidewire in the same field of endeavor for the purpose of providing the user with enhanced ability to lock and maneuver the sheath and guidewire.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the torque member as taught by Howell with the embolic filtering system of Pieronne in order to provide the operator better control of the sheath during its separation from the guidewire.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 5/15/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that the guidewire of Howell as identified by the examiner does not function as a guidewire is known to in the medical field. However as clearly

stated by the applicant the guidewire of Howell is "used to insert the catheter 14 into the patient", which is exactly what guidewires are used for in the medical art. The wire guides the catheter to and into the patient.

The applicant further argues that the Howell device is not designed to split from proximal retraction of the sheath. However the examiner is interpreting the rear end of Howell to be the proximal end. Therefore the device of Howell splits its sheath through proximal retraction.

The applicant's final argument is that element 19 of Pieronne is not a torque device, however this is not a proper argument because the rejection is relying upon the torque device taught by Howell and not that of Pieronne.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher D. Prone whose telephone number is (571) 272-6085. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Through Fri 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (571) 272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Christopher D Prone
Examiner
Art Unit 3738

CDP


CORRINE McDERMOTT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700